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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 01/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,289

Applicant(s)

BISMARCK ET AL.

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of minor informality, that is, with respect to **Fig. 3**, **please label all the pertinent components/parts/steps**, such as, packing machine, control circuit, cellophane machine, printer, laser, etc. for examining purposes. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 1, line 4: Substitute "the container" with -- the composite container --.

Re claim 15, line 8: Substitute "commodites" with -- commodities --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2876

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lephardt (US 4,836,378) in view of Rudszinat (US 4,077,289).

Re claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-14: Lephardt discloses a method of confining a commodity 34 in a composite container 12 having a plurality of constituents, comprising assembling the constituents into the composite container 12 around the commodity 34; processing information and encoding the information, which can be decoded without even partial opening of the assembled container 12; the container including an inner envelope directly surrounding the commodity 34; an outer envelope 14 surrounding the inner envelope; a tear strip 16 borne by the outermost envelope 14 (figs. 1 & 3; col. 3, line 7 through col. 4, line 28).

Lephardt fails to teach or fairly suggest the step of providing characteristic indicia, which is randomly selected and is processed into information.

Rudszinat teaches the above limitation with indicia being printed on label 3, which is detachable insert forming part of the inner envelope (col. 3, lines 4-9; col. 5, lines 23-40).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Rudszinat into the teachings of Lephardt in order to provide Lephardt with a simpler and more feasible system, wherein the characteristic indicia is easier to print

Art Unit: 2876

(i.e., does not require special ink - e.g., jet ink). Furthermore, such modification would have mere been a substitution of equivalents well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Re claim 3, Lephardt as modified by Rudszinat fails to teach or fairly suggest the method of applying all of the characteristic indicia to the respective constituents.

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the above technique into the teachings of Lephardt/Rudszinat in order to provide Lephardt/Rudszinat with a more secure system, wherein the encoded information can always be read from the container even in the event of one of the encoded indicia being detached/tore from the container. Furthermore, such modification would have simply been considered a mere duplication of elements as taught by Lephardt/Rudszinat and therefore an obvious expedient.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lephardt as modified by Rudszinat as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Erdmann et al (US 4,471,866 - cited by the applicant). The teachings of Lephardt/Rudszinat have been discussed above.

Re claim 11, Lephardt/Rudszinat have been discussed above but fails to teach or fairly suggest the step of advancing the commodity along a predetermined path and draping the constituents of the container around the advancing commodity in a predetermined sequence.

Erdmann et al teaches the above limitation by guiding (guide members 22 and 23) the commodity 4 along a predetermined path such that the commodities 4 will be in three groups (7 for groups 1 & 3, 6 for group 2) in the container (see figs. 1 & 2; col. 5, line 43 through col. 8, line 17).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Erdmann et al into the teachings of Lephardt/Rudszinat for aesthetic purposes, in which the commodities appearance is within the expected arrangement.

Art Unit: 2876

Furthermore, such modification would provide Lephardt/Rudszinat with a more capacity of the container (i.e., by having the commodity in order as in a predetermined path would provide more space left in the container, and thus more commodities can be enclosed within the container). Accordingly, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Lephardt/Rudszinat, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

8. Claims 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lephardt as modified by Rudszinat and Erdmann et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bryant et al (US 5,190,428). The teachings of Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al have been discussed above.

Re claims 15-22, Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al have been discussed above but fails to teach or fairly suggest means for conveying successive commodities of the series along a predetermined path.

Bryant et al teaches the above limitation with commodities being conveyed by conveyor path 12 (figs. 1 & 2; col. 6, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Bryant et al into the teachings of Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al in order to provide Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al with a more feasible system (i.e., reducing the requirements of laborers). Furthermore, such modification would provide Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al with a faster and productive system. Accordingly, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Lephardt/Rudszinat/Erdmann et al, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Dante et al (US 5,365,596); Krul et al (US 5,806,281); Adams et al (US 5,160,023); Bowen et al (US 6,223,895); Focke et al (JP 11-198,917); Kutchin (US 4,784,261); Draghetti et al (US 5,823,528) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to a method and apparatus for making composite container with identifying indicia.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 703-306-5588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T and TR-F 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL G LEE can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


Uyen-Chau N. Le

January 14, 2002



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER